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Prison Action News is a newsletter collaboratively published by prisoner support groups for prisoners worldwide to report on their struggles and acts of resistance from behind bars. All submissions must be **RECEIVED** by **January 1st or July 1st** and be in compliance with the guidelines below. Please note that we retain the right as editors to alter submissions for grammatical and content-related issues. Prison Action News is one part of the multi-faceted Prison Abolition movement. We believe that the writing in Prison Action News is as important as poetry or political essays, but is often less represented.

History:

The idea for Prison Action News came out of the 2007 Anarchist Black Cross (ABC) Network gathering. We wanted to create a venue for prisoners to share updates of their activities, similar to the updates we wrote in the network newsletter. Recognizing that there is far too much activity occurring in prisons to put in our quarterly newsletter, we decided to create a venue for prisoners to share updates of their activities, similar to the updates we wrote in the network newsletter. As people on the outside, we can facilitate this dialog of prison resistance, and help our comrades stay informed about the inspiring actions others are taking. We accept submissions from prisoners and prison groups worldwide, and bilingual writing. With your help this newsletter will be a success- if you know of resistance taking place that is not represented here, please send us a submission, and spread the word!

Please send **SUBMISSIONS** to:

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or

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Guidelines

1. An update must not exceed 500 words.
2. We will not accept submissions with racist, sexist, homophobic, or otherwise oppressive language.
3. An update may be a report on resistance activities of individual prisoners or prison groups (this can include, but is not limited to, radical book groups, hunger strike, general strike, letter writing campaigns, etc.).
4. A report should not be a political essay or a report on prison conditions, rather, the response and resistance to these conditions.
5. PAN accepts entries of artwork and illustrations.
6. One submission per group, per prison, per newsletter.
7. We will not report on gang activity.
8. We accept bilingual entries (when one language is English), as well as Spanish entries!
9. Entries may be submitted for publication by prison groups and organizations, or individuals, and may be submitted for publication with the name and contact information of the writer, or anonymously, to protect their identity.

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EDITING: THE PAN COLLECTIVE,
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served to “coerce official action”, with the cell extractions being the official action coerced by the inmates.

As of October 4th, 2011, Anthony Kelly accepted a plea bargain (the details of which are unknown) in November 2010 and has since been released. All of the remaining inmates have remained in solitary confinement units. Anthony Locke has not been in contact with HRC-Fed Up! nor any Dallas 6 support groups.

Duane Peters and Carrington Keys are currently representing themselves. Keys, in July 2010, filed a suit against the district attorney for ignoring complaints. In September 2010 the suit was moved from state to federal court, where Keys was asked to amend his complaint against the District Attorney. He added complaints of being retaliated against and asked the federal government to issue a restraining against the District Attorney, a move which was subsequently denied.

Since the incident in April 2010, Andre Jacobs has been transferred to three facilities. The first facility where he was transferred immediately after the cell extraction was SCI Coal Township where, on August 2nd according to over a dozen reports from inmates, food was withheld from him because “he liked to file paperwork.” After protesting the withholding of meals, he was subsequently removed from the cell while guards removed the mattress and personal belongings and was returned to an empty cell and was reportedly denied meals for an extended period of time afterwards. He was later sent to SCI Huntington and then SCI Rockview. Jacobs is currently in the Luzerne County prison for pretrial hearings represented by a public attorney who Jacobs has attempted to fire so that he may represent himself, but so far this move has not been allowed by the court.

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PAN

Disclaimer:

The content of the PAN newsletter is intended solely for information and education. Descriptions and claims appearing in PAN have not been independently verified and should be considered unsubstantiated. Moreover, PAN topics do not necessarily reflect the perspective of any individual involved in its content or production. Likewise, PAN topics do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of any recipient or of any individual or group mentioned in PAN. This newsletter in no way encourages or supports any illegal behavior. PAN only intends to provide a printed forum for conversation and news. We regret if any PAN entry or passage is misconstrued as a violation of state and/or federal regulations.



Remembering Lefty 1929-2011



This issue of Prison Action News is dedicated to William "Lefty" Gilday, who passed away on September 9, 2011. Lefty was a revolutionary, baseball pitcher, and jail house lawyer extraordinaire. He was a friend to all Behind the Wall who kept a sharp sense of humor until health problems and medical neglect took their toll. Lefty died while held captive at MCI Shirley in Massachusetts, serving a life sentence for involvement in a bank expropriation while attempting to finance the anti-war movement during the Vietnam War.

Frequently Asked Questions

FAQs

Why does PAN have a new address?

From its inception, the PAN Collective was made entirely of members of ABC chapters, most recently including Boston ABC, Central Georgia ABC, and Central Texas ABC. In July 2010, two members, one co-founder and the designer since the third year of publication, relocated and ceased to be involved in any of the above organizations. Publishing the 2011 issues was a difficult process, with physical distance and shifts in organizations preventing efficiency and delaying their release. We made a decision in August 2011 that the submissions needed to be centralized in order for editing and layout to be streamlined. Thus, PAN continues to be published by a collective, with the majority of the initial editing and layout now as the responsibility of two individuals. The new address reflects a location that is convenient for those who handle the submissions themselves. Other collective members are instrumental in soliciting submissions, providing additional editing, and managing subscriptions and distribution.

In my previous submissions, I asked people to contact me- why haven't I gotten many responses?

PAN was created to facilitate a dialog about prison resistance, primarily among those who are themselves incarcerated. Thus, the primary audience for our publications is prisoners. PAN is distributed on the outside primarily electronically, for the main purpose of reaching other groups who have additional contacts in prison, and who may serve as additional distributors. Therefore, it is important to write PAN entries with the audience in mind. If your purpose and goal is to reach large numbers people on the outside, and receive help or guidance, this may not be the publication for you. PAN is one part of the multi-faceted Prison Abolition movement, which includes many other publications, with varying purposes and intended audiences.

orderly conduct with the intent to coerce official action. To wit; the defendant, along with five other inmates, covered their cell door windows and tied their doors shut in order to cause Corrections Officers to perform cell extractions.

In the Affidavit of Probable Cause (against Duane Peters):

On April 29, 2010, the defendant and other inmates lead by I/M Keys, I/M Locke, I/M Kelly and I/M Jacobs covered their cell door windows in order to require them to be extracted from the cells. The defendant, while housed in the RHU, also barricaded his cell door, along with five other inmates, and refused several orders to remove the items. This caused the use of the cell extraction team. When the extraction team attempted to remove the defendant he resisted and attempted to assault the officers after they entered.

According to a September 2010 news story from Luzerne County regarding a preliminary hearing for Carrington Keys:

On April 29, the men hung bedsheets to keep guards from peering into their cells and used the cloth to secure their doors shut, said Trooper Christopher Wilson. When an extraction team entered the cells, he said six guards were pelted with feces and urine.

In testimony, Lt. David Mosier, who heads the extraction team, said he gave "numerous warnings" to Keys and said guards would raid the cells if the bedding wasn't taken down.

"He refused all orders," Mosier said. "At that point I ordered the extraction team to enter."

The section referring to the guards "pelted with feces and urine" is a reference to additional charges against Carrington Keys, who denies those charges.

The charge of Aggravated Harassment by Prisoner against Keys, in the July 7th criminal complaint, reads:

A person is guilty if while confined in or committed to any local or county detention facility, jail or prison or any State penal or correctional institution or other State penal or correctional facility located in this Commonwealth, he intentionally or knowingly causes or attempts to cause another to come into contact with saliva or feces my throwing, tossing, spitting or expelling such fluid or material. To wit; the defendant threw feces at and on the extraction team; the victims are employees of the State Correctional Institution in Dallas.

One inconsistency in the charges against Keys is that, had there been an incident in which excrement had been thrown at the officers, there would have been a decontamination process (which there is no evidence of), rather than the continuation of cell extractions immediately after Keys' extraction.

In a hearing on November 12th, 2010:

State police Cpl. Christopher Wilson called the three corrections officers to testify. They said the six inmates were given several orders to remove the coverings from their cell doors – a violation of the prisons code – and didn't comply.

The officers testified they then removed the six men from their cells to search them. "Something serious was going on," said Sgt. Donald Buck, an officer at SCI-Dallas. "It was a security and safety issue."

Originally charged as a group, the six were eventually split up into six individual cases. Their actions were deemed a safety issue which, as the complaints read,

nia,” written with extensive cooperation of inmates, SCI Dallas was particularly rife with abuses. Among them, the “frequent usage of racist slurs, threats of violence, verbal and physical abuse by guards,” “retaliation against prisoners exercising their constitutional rights to file grievances,” and “failure to provide adequate or at times any, physical or mental health care.”

One prisoner who corresponded with the HRC described his experience in the RHU at SCI Dallas:

“The conditions were very inhumane...hot, no working vents at all... stuffy and humid... My first cell bugs were biting me all over my body, when I said something about it they (medical staff) played like I was crazy then finally after constant complaining they gave me benadryl then moved me and still didn’t clean the cell. They had a light on all day that felt like a rotisserie lamp. It was hard to sleep because of the hot humid cells and constant bugs biting me all day and night... We had no cups to drink the brown colored water that came out of the sinks and toilets. There was constant screaming yelling kicking and banging...”

[...]

The report was released in April 2010. RHU Inmate Andre Jacobs, who had corresponded with HRC and whose testimonial appeared in the report, was sent a copy of the report. On April 25th, RHU inmate Derrick Stanley reported hearing a member of the security staff tell Jacobs that he “just got something really interesting from Fed Up.”

At some point on the 25th, inmate Anthony Kelly, who had contributed to the HRC report, had food withheld from him. Fellow inmate Isaac Sanchez spoke out against the withholding of food, and subsequently Sanchez’s dinner was withheld. On May 2nd, Anthony Kelly wrote that “as of 4/25/10 I haven’t had a sip of water and only 2 baloney sandwiches... They cut off your water and see how long you go before they can break you. They starve you.” He also wrote that the report was being circulated among correctional officers, and that they had since “been on a very vicious roll.”

On April 28th, three days after the withholding of meals from Kelly and Sanchez, Sanchez was the target of a cell extraction. As the HRC report describes it:

A cell-extraction is when guards equipped in riot gear and armed with pepper spray and electro-shock weapons forcibly enter a cell in order to overwhelm a prisoner, place them in hand and leg restraints, and move them to another cell by force.

Sanchez was, in his own words, “violently beaten and shocked for some-time, then I was placed on the restraint chair for sixteen hours.”

The following day, six prisoners, many of whom had contributed to the HRC report, covered the windows of their cells in protest.

“We covered our windows to obstruct count, refused to answer them, barricaded our doors closed... and forced cell-extractions,” according to a letter from Andre Jacobs cited in the August 2010 HRC report.

Andre Jacobs, Anthony Kelly, Carrington Keys, Anthony Locke, Derrick Stanley, and Duane Peters-El were all subjected to violent cell extractions the same day. All were tasered, many more than a dozen times, as well as pepper sprayed and beaten.[...] According to the criminal complaints, filed July 7th, 2010, all six inmates were charged with rioting. The complaints read:

Riot- A Person is guilty if he participates with two or more others in a course of dis

PRISON GROUPS AND PROGRAMS

First Communique from the Army of the 12 Monkeys - December, 2011

First, the history: as protestors occupied public spaces in resistance to the capitalists, prison abolitionists within the movement were engaged in dialogue with prisoners. The question before them was, how could prisoners and free-world protestors work together and build a larger resistance that could make the larger system increasingly unmanageable politically, economically, and logistically? A small number of prisoners with the right knowledge could have a huge impact.

Prisoners involved in this dialogue quickly compiled a resistance manual that could be used by prisoners everywhere, and the occupation protestors helped in creating a network for distributing those manuals and coordinating prisoner actions.

In the meantime, an effort was made in several locations to unite various prisoner groups who normally struggle against each other. As those groups already have internal organization and communication networks, it was felt that it would be very easy to re-direct those groups to work against a common enemy. In many prisons, the so-called gang problem was solved virtually overnight.

Our current reality: the Army of 12 Monkeys supports direct action against the prison system. We are operating in seven different states where groups are now organizing and preparing, and we have facilitated successful direct actions at over a dozen facilities. While at a local level, 12 Monkey groups may have a variety of demands, our general consensus is that the Army of the 12 Monkeys does not seek reform of the system, we want it to cease to exist. We employ the tactics of sabotage and disruption to inspire more resistance.

To that end, we call on the occupation movement to show their solidarity with the prisoners of our common enemy and to march upon departments of corrections in every state and federal jurisdiction. We call on supporters to post this communication and other Army of the 12 Monkey publications online and in print everywhere, and to circulate them among the prisoners to inspire hope and courage that this growing resistance to topple our common enemy will succeed. We call on prisoners to support the occupation movement with a constant campaign of direct action and sabotage.

We are everywhere. We are growing. Support your local Army of the 12 Monkeys.

Monkey #4

Army of the 12 Monkeys Publication Committee

The MOVE Organization - December, 2011

ON THE MOVE to all supporters, brothers and sisters united in the cause. The example of support that you have shown to Political Prisoners through the years is received with ongoing motivation to stop the exploitative policies of this reform world system. The MOVE Organization is generating a united revolutionary vibration to you and all supporters around the world through our uncompromising fight for justice and freedom for all of life. We are linked together as one to confront and expose the intimidation tactics the oppressor uses to beat down and kill off the fighting spirit in all freedom fighters. Divide and conquer is what this system uses to keep people apart and going in separate directions. They try to drive a wedge between us to get people to go against each other, that way it keeps the focus off of them, the real adversary. We are obligated to show others the need for change, and help guide people in the direction of revolution. We must never let ourselves be divided despite any so-called differences, because finally, we have the most important thing in common, our fight against the enemy, the enslaver, this system. Any difference among us is secondary to that. What this system fears most is organization, unity. In the eyes of the government, organization, unity means the loss of control over people. The power of the people is the key to freedom.

In the words of John Africa:

“To think that strength lies in numbers, a crowd, a gang is foolish, for an army is no stronger than the organization of its direction. The power of life is the organization within it, when the principle is even, all is balanced, as organization is power, is strength, is force, the motivation that moves the entire universe. An army is no more organized than the so-called organization of the organizer. It is impossible for the leaders of this reform world system to organize their armies while they themselves are indecisive, uncertain, problematically insecure, disorganized. It’s impossible for an army to be organized by a leader without aborting the organization of self. When you have a body of people singular in direction, decisive in commitment, you have the union of family, totality of common, the organization of life. When you have a mass of people searching for direction, uncertain of their commitment, disorganized within themselves, you have a gang, so it is with the reform world system. They have attempted to add to the direction of life and they’ve come up with a gang of excessive over-privileged that have attempted to subtract from the principle of life and have come up with the problem of war, mob rule, gang violence, liberalistic deception, the reform world system.”

MOVE men, women, and babies were murdered by this government on May 13, 1985. Not one government official, one politician, one police officer who dropped the bomb on our family that day spent one day in jail. We know many of you have lost your family, loved ones and comrades in this fight too. We are innocent. Despite our innocence we’ve been in prison for almost 34 years, we’ve been beaten, had our family members murdered, not because we are guilty, but because we have the courage to stand up and fight back against this corrupt, rotten government and confront these officials, politicians, judges and brutal police for the diabolical monsters they are. It is inevitable that you will or have suffered injustice of one form or another

Pennsylvania Prisoners Charged with Rioting After Protesting Conditions in Solitary - October 15, 2011

by Sal Rodriguez

from <http://solitarywatch.com/2011/10/15/pennsylvania-prisoners-charged-with-rioting-after-protesting-conditions-in-solitary/>

A group of inmates held in solitary confinement in a Pennsylvania prison have been charged with various felony offenses, including rioting and aggravated harassment, stemming from their participation in an April 2010 protest against prison abuses. The group, which has come to be known as the Dallas 6, covered the windows of their cell doors with bedding in protest of alleged harassment by correctional officers at the State Correctional Institution (SCI) Dallas. Their protest was met with violent “cell extractions” against all six inmates. Officially, the covering of the cell windows constituted an act which coerced correctional officials to perform cell extractions, therefore making their actions rioting.

According to Human Rights Coalition-Fed Up! investigator Bet Grote, there will be a hearing before Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas Judge Nina Gartley on October 21st regarding a defense motion to consolidate the cases of four of the Dallas 6’s cases into a single case. The hearing involves Andre Jacobs, Carrington Keys, Derrick Stanley, and Duane Peters-El, four of the five members of the Dallas 6 who have yet to have their cases resolved. (Anthony Kelly accepted a plea bargain last year, and Anthony Locke will be tried separately). The four are currently held at the Luzerne County Correctional Facility. Carrington Keys was set to go to trial on October 17th, but the trial has been postponed to a later, undetermined date.

The alleged abuses against inmates that inspired the protest are, according to some, reflective of a widespread problem in the Pennsylvania prison system. The most dramatic allegations surfaced last month, when a suspended prison guard from SCI Pittsburgh was arrested on charges that he sexually or physically assaulted more than 20 inmates. Earlier reports suggest less extreme, but nonetheless serious abuses at other prisons.

As of August 31, 2011 there were 51,393 inmates under the jurisdiction of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, in a system with a designed capacity of 44,190. Among them are over 1,500 inmates in isolation units—referred to as Restricted Housing Units. Restricted Housing Units are solitary confinement units where inmates are kept in their cells 23 hours a day during the week and 24 hours on the weekends.

For ten months between 2009 and 2010, the Human Rights Coalition-Fed Up! worked on a report documenting abuses across Pennsylvania prisons, but most specifically at SCI Dallas. A medium security prison in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, SCI Dallas houses over 2,100 inmates, including over a hundred inmates in Disciplinary and Administrative Restricted Housing Units.

According to the 2010 report by the Human Rights Coalition-Fed Up! “Institutionalized Cruelty: Torture at SCI Dallas and in Prisons Throughout Pennsylvania

yer at “Legal Services for Prisoners with Children” and “Prison Focus” said...“but you know the proof is in the pudding. We’ll see if the CDCR keeps its word regarding this new process.”

(Note: As of this writing, with Scott Kernan announcing retirement, and no indication a replacement director would implement or honor a negotiated new (SHU) “gang-validation” policy; PAN has no more reason for being any less optimistic than Carol Strickman on its enactment.)

Reference: • Colin Dayan, “Barbarous Confinement” 7/17/11 Op-Ed Contributor

- Prisoner Hunger Strike Solidarity Blog
- California Prison Focus
- Nevada Prisoner Newsletter

Athens: Prisoners’ mutiny in Koridallos men’s prisons in solidarity with two members of the R.O. CCF - September 13, 2011

From <http://en.contrainfo.espiv.net/2011/09/13/athens-prisoners%E2%80%99-mutiny-in-koridallos-men%E2%80%99s-prisons-in-solidarity-with-two-members-of-the-r-o-ccf/>

On Tuesday, September 13th, 275 inmates in the 1st wing of Koridallos men’s prisons refused to enter their prison cells in solidarity with two imprisoned members of the anarchist revolutionary organization Conspiracy of Cells of Fire, namely Gerasimos Tsakalos and Panagiotis Argirou who were transferred to Domokos prisons yesterday, September 12th.

Both refused to comply with the psychological torture of forcible full body search, and were attacked by chief warden Christos Kliaris and a group of the jail staff. The two political prisoners resisted the jailers’ blatant attack and threats, demonstrating that not all inmates remain apathetic to prison humiliating procedures and authorities.

The communiqué is co-signed by a total of 275 inmates who decided to remain outside the prison cells for three hours during midday. They dedicate their action to Gerasimos Tsakalos, Panagiotis Argirou and all prisoners that struggle for their dignity and have suffered tortures.

NEITHER CRIMINAL NOR POLITICAL PRISONERS

SET FIRE TO ALL PRISONS

Update (Sept. 21): The incident has triggered ongoing solidarity actions and mutinies in numerous men’s and women’s prisons across Greece, since September 13th —with inmates remaining outside the prison cells during midday or declaring abstention of prison food. Solidarity is a weapon!

because when the system that is dictating and controlling the arrangement of things ain’t right, ain’t organized, everybody living under that influence suffers injustice.

Stay strong. Know that MOVE will not let the lives of our family, your family, Freedom Fighters, Political Prisoners be in vain. We will never stop fighting. The seed of revolution has been planted, if our paths never cross, at least we know that our roots are plated in the same soil.

Solidarity,

ON THE MOVE

Janet Africa

THE MOVE ORGANIZATION

LONG LIVE ALL FREEDOM FIGHTERS

LONG LIVE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS

LONG LIVE REVOLUTION

LONG LIVE JOHN AFRICA FOREVER!!

New Panther Vanguard Movement - December, 2011

Pease and revolutionary Greetings Comrades,
NPVM will be restructuring all of its programs and activities within the prison systems and within the communities in society. Any/all mail will be duly answered and anyone seeking membership/participation in any of our programs should write as soon as possible. All assistance in the legal department, book program, and basic computer skills will be provided on a first come first serve basis, membership included.

I will be released on May 28, 2012 and all mail should be forwarded at the present time to any one of the addresses provided below. We are looking for leaders and organizers and group facilitators. We will also be opening up our national office in Houston, TX and we may still be contacted at our international headquarters at the address given below.

If for any reason anyone’s mail was not answered in the past, it was because it was not received due to interference in the prison mailing system.

Brother Kwaku was the coordinator for the last official chapter of the original B.P.P., (i.e. SCC- Southern California Chapter), and he is our international chairman. We are looking for prison coordinators, chapter coordinators, field commentators, and quite a few other positions.

We may be contacted at the following addresses: Sidney (Shariyf) Williams #563001, 59 Darrington Rd. Rosharon, TX 77583; CT-ABC Attn: Shariyf, PO Box 7187, Austin TX, 78713; or Law Offices of B. Kwaku Duren & Associates, P.C., Attn: Shariyf, 4716 Crenshaw Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90043.

Wapun, WI - December, 2011

My name is Manuel C. Salas, 25 year old animal rights activist. In January of 2011 I was moved to WCI and they stopped my vegan diet. I went on hunger strike in protest for vegan food and the DOC replied by saying they changed their policy so all religious groups, protestant and native, could get vegan food. Not long after this, my brother requested vegan food and they would not allow him to have it, so I went on hunger strike #2 and put out a request for help. I had to end my hunger strike due to health programs and as it worked out, the day I ended it I got a letter from my brother telling me he got his vegan food. It is still not nutritionally adequate but me and others are fighting for our rights through pen and paper. Some help is needed and I'm networking with people and trying to get help.

The next update is that I decided, after talking to friends, family, and other supporters, to come out of hiding and bring my organization to light. I have been organizing with other inmates and the outside. The main points are the right to adequate nutrition in our vegan food, for animal rights, and for prisoner rights as a whole. I need everyone reading this, if you can send and receive mail to and from other inmates, to please send me a letter letting me know this as soon as possible. If you know any vegans, give them my information. I want to start networking with other inmates but need others' help and support in this. Please print when you write so we can start to network within prison walls from prisoners to prisoners. My information is at the end of this writing.

I'm still working on our "my and other inmates in WI" 1983 Civil lawsuit for our rights. There were some road blocks and fighting to stay alive as the government tries to kill me for using my voice to shine the light on the truth.

It's not the time to hide, it's the time to stand up and fight back with our pen and our knowledge against the injustice. Do not be afraid of what people can do to you. You are only going to die once and if you do not stand for something, you will fall for anything and die for nothing.

Stand up, don't be afraid of radical changes. I'm not called a rebel for nothing. I stand when it's time to fight and leave the liars and haters behind me so I can grow to something better, knowing one day I'm going to die for something.

In solidarity,

Manuel C. Salas #504222
Wapun Correctional Inst.
PO Box 352
Wapun, WI 53963-0352

July 9th: Support actions took place in U.S. & Canada.

July 14th: CDCR's Scott Kernan spoke with (PBSP) striker's representatives promising their demands would be addressed and changes enacted.

July 18th: 200 supporters, lawyers, and prisoner families presented 7,500 signatures to the CDCR in Sacramento; and marched to Governor Brown's office to demand answers.

July 20th: Kernan and CDCR officials again met with hunger strike representatives, and said he would provide specifics on the demands in a couple weeks; the strike was temporarily suspended to give CDCR a grace period to fulfill their promises.

August 19th: Kernan told representatives CDCR was working on a "step down" program for getting out of the (SHU) that wouldn't require debriefing; but gave no specifics on the [5] Core Demands. Representatives asked for specific details, and Kernan said he'd provide those within [2] weeks.

August 23rd: California Assembly's Public Safety Commission held a hearing on (SHU) conditions in Sacramento.

August 31st: (SHU) staff issued memos stating handballs would be allowed on yards and prisoners could buy sweat suits, have photos taken if they were disciplinary-free for a year; and buy art supplies from the canteen—no core demands were considered.

At this time a second memo warned (SHU) strikers against further strikes as non-compliance of Director's Rules; and threatened discipline would be taken on recurrences of such behavior. Staff also forced prisoners into situations where minor infractions became serious write-ups to intimidate them while the policy changes were being deliberated.

September 2nd: Memo (dated August 25th) called "Gang Management Proposal" was issued to [4] principal hunger strikers. Striker Antonio Guillen said proposal was "by far the most punitive and restrictive program I have ever seen." The proposal widens the gang criteria to "anyone they consider to be problematic."

September 26th: Despite threats to prisoners the strike resumed all over California, and after [3] days 12,000 strikers were involved, spreading to 12 CDCR prisons, also in Arizona, Mississippi, and Oklahoma housing California prisoners. CDCR then classified the strike as an "organized disturbance" and moved (SHU) strikers to "Administrative Segregation". Air-conditioning set on "high" in 50-degree weather, dressed in jumpsuits, blanket, mattress, and losing legal mail and property; strike numbers dropped off seeking relief from torture - CDCR also undercounted strike numbers.

September 29th: CDCR alleged [2] strikers' attorney's leaked conditions of intimidation and cruelty, banning them till an investigation's conclusion for "violated the laws and policies governing the safe operations of institutions within the CDCR."

October 13th: Pelican Bay strikers ended their 3-weeklong strike when CDCR guaranteed to review every prisoner's (SHU) sentence under new gang validation criteria. Calipatria State Prison (ASU) hunger strikers stopped their strike October 15th to allow time to regain strength; 80 % (ASU) prisoners were on "indefinite" (SHU) terms awaiting other (SHU) transfers. Carol Strickman, "banned" law-

2011 Prisoner Hunger Strike at Pelican Bay - December, 2011

Pelican Bay State Prison (PBSP) opened December (1989), near Eureka, California and Oregon's southwestern border. Prisoners almost immediately began filing complaints, and in a (1993) Class-Action lawsuit, 3,500 (PBSP) signed on to Madrid v. Gomez, 889 F. Supp. 1146, 1229-30, 1260-67 (N.D. Cal. 1995); where the court states..."In sum, those incarcerated in (SHU) for any length of time are severely deprived of normal human contact...conditions in (SHU) amount to a virtual total deprivation, including, so far as possible, deprivation on human contact" (Id. at p. 1230).

A (1995) Federal Court Injunction ordered eliminating excessive force, inadequate health care, and mentally ill from PBSP's (SHU)-(6). The Judge Thelton E. Henderson, said conditions "hover on the edge of what is humanly tolerable," he failed in not declaring long-term solitary confinement unconstitutional.

In Castillo v. Alameda, (1994), Steven Castillo claimed officials retaliated by placing Castillo in the (SHU) for multiple lawsuits filed against CDCR. About 1,000 prisoners and Castillo entered a 6-day hunger strike protesting PBSP's gang policy in (2001). Despite California State Senator Richard Polanco vowing to resolve the policy issue with CDCR; no results materialized after a year of negotiations.

Castillo and 60 Pelican Bay prisoners hunger struck for three weeks in (2002), CDCR's gang debriefing policies didn't change. You can get out of the (SHU) by naming names, doing so though, will likely get you killed returning to "population." To "debrief" is to be targeted for death by gang members, so the prisoners are moved to "protective custody" — that is, another form of solitary confinement.

In (2004), after ten years, Castillo v. Alameda was settled, agreeing to reshape the (SHU) debriefing policy, substantive changes to conditions still remained seven years later in (2011).

In (2010), Pelican Bay prisoners sent a complaint to California Lawmakers, prison officials, and Governor Schwarzenegger. CDCR's responded... "file a grievance if you haven't already"...CDCR locked them down July (2010), to February/March of (2011); prisoners agreed something must be done, so a peaceful protest hunger strike to expose illegal prison policies was planned; pressuring the state with outside media/public support to force meaningful changes.

July 1, 2011, (SHU) prisoners began the strike with [5] "Core Demands:"

1. Eliminate group punishments for individual rules violations;
2. Abolish the debriefing policy and modify active/inactive gang status criteria;
3. Comply with the recommendations of the U.S. Commission on Safety and Abuse in Prisons (2006) regarding an end to long-term solitary confinement.
4. Provide adequate food;
5. Expand and provide constructive programs and privileges for indefinite (SHU) inmates.

Petersburg, VA - December, 2011

Starting Prison ABC Chapter. Looking for help in submissions of anarchist/queer literature and zines. Also looking for outside help in research of anarchist information. May also be interested in contributing to anarchist/anarcho-queer zines. Please write to:

Michael Silvera, 22538-057
FCC Petersburg
PO BOX 1000
Petersburg VA 23804

TPFA Campaign's Appeal for Freeworld Volunteer Support - December 19, 2011

The Texas Prisoners' Freedom Agenda Campaign (TPFA Campaign) has been in the trenches fighting to protect and advance the rights and freedoms of Texas prisoners since the 2005 founding. We started out with freeworld volunteer support from anarchist comrades at Kansas Mutual Aid. When we lost that line of support, anarchist comrades at the Boston ABC stepped up to the plate and provided TPFA with critical organizing support. This included help developing and maintaining a TPFA myspace page (www.myspace.com/txprisonersfreedomagenda) and email address, help with correspondence and campaign organizing literature. Unfortunately, this critical line of support from Boston ABC was discontinued in 2010 due to relocation of volunteer staff.

On several occasions, the TPFA Campaign has received significant and loyal support from the Central Texas ABC, producing documents for our "online grievance petition drive," and with efforts to overturn false disciplinary cases or correct problems of denial of adequate medical care experienced by certain Texas prisoners who contacted TPFA for help. Another positive development is that the Maoist International Ministry of Prisons- MIM (Prisons)- a Maoist prisoner support group in San Francisco, CA, has recently agreed to provide the TPFA Campaign with limited promotional help in promoting the TPFA Campaign's "online grievance petition drive," which seeks to have the 2012 session of the Texas Legislature replace the current bias/sham/broken TDCJ grievance procedure with a "Citizen's Independent Inmate Grievance Review Board."

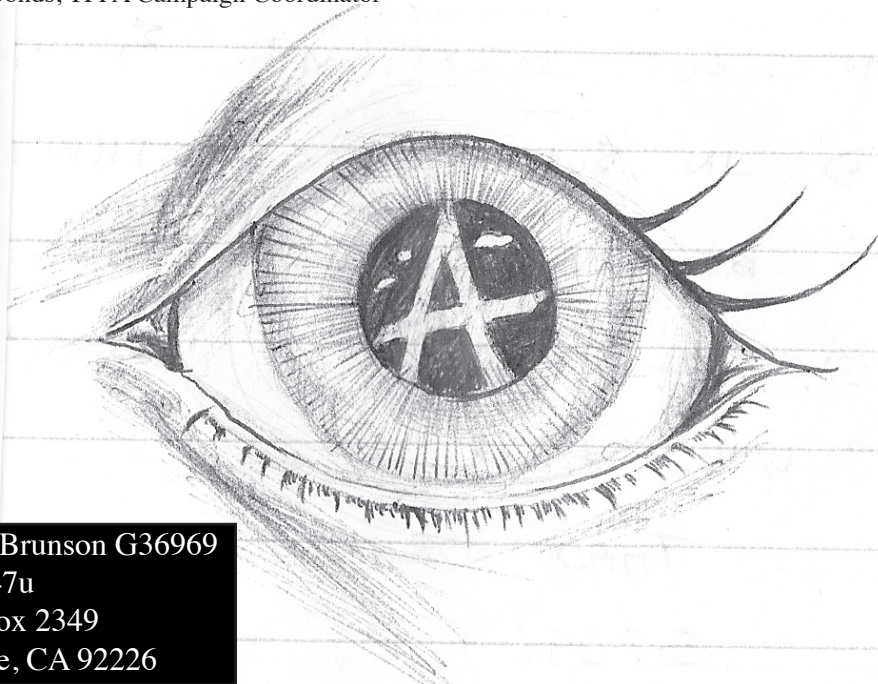
The TPFA Campaign has produced several articles which have been published in past issues of the PAN newsletter. However, these articles, seeking to share information about and promote the TPFA Campaign, have failed to attract critically needed freeworld volunteers to the TPFA Campaign to fill in where other groups left off and/or help with various TPFA Campaign projects. This is very unfortunate, as it is impossible for prisoners to engage in significant and effective revolutionary organizing without freeworld volunteer support. The TPFA Campaign offers both the greatest and most worthwhile opportunity for freeworlders and prisoners to participate in and significantly advance the rights and freedoms of Texas prisoners and our family members and friends in the freeworld adversely affected by our incarceration, prison abuse/criminal injustice in Texas or by the prison industrial Complex.

In sum, the TPFA Campaign remains fully dedicated to the Texas Prisoner freedom struggle and the prison resistance movement. Therefore, we issue this appeal to all Texas prisoners, and particularly to all freeworld family members, friends, and supporters of Texas prisoners. Requesting all of you to join forces with the TPFA Campaign and provide the Freeworld volunteer support, especially required to make this great campaign for freedom and powerful organizational success against the forces of prison abuse and criminal injustice. To join or find out more about TPFA, write me at: Mr. Danny Bonds, #542646, Michael Unit, 2664 F.M. 2054, Tennessee Colony, TX 75886; or reach me at: www.betweenthebars.org/blogs/372.

All power to the people!

Stiff resistance!!

Danny Bonds, TPFA Campaign Coordinator



Thad Brunson G36969
B3 147u
PO Box 2349
Blythe, CA 92226



Georgia: Prisoners donned guards' jackets after the guards fled.

Georgia Prisons on Fire - November 28, 2011

by Eugene Thomas, From San Francisco Bay View
<http://sfbayview.com/2011/georgia-prisons-on-fire/>

On Nov. 25, Hancock State Prison in Sparta, Georgia, erupted into a full scale riot, as prisoners ran off the guards in several of the cell houses (euphemistically called dormitories, as though this was a college campus) in protest over abuses by guards and grievances unresolved by administrators.

On Nov. 25, at about 9:45 p.m. EST, while I was in a political education class with Sis. Kiilu Nyasha, a report came in that Hancock State Prison's prisoners were rioting. Not knowing whether this report was true – or at least an accurate representation of the facts – I began doing some investigative work. And to my amazement, Hancock's prisoner populace was indeed in full riot – or revolt.

I was told by a comrade there that the spark that ignited this fire was a young female guard calling the prisoners there “bitches and hoes.”

These verbal abuses and disrespect caused this female guard to be “run out of the cell house.” It's reported that she called for emergency backup, which is standard policy. The team of officers that came as backup were likewise “run out the cell house.”

All the guards were told by their supervisor to leave the prison compound, so that no officers would be present when the State Troopers stormed the compound. I'm told that from 6 o'clock in the evening until about 2 o'clock in the morning, no guard was working on the inside compound grounds.

Prisoners thus set several of the module living units on fire and donned guards' jackets, danced, sang and celebrated. At around 3 or 4 a.m., State Troopers and local police took back the prison while the local fire department put out the blaze. Prisoners have warned, “This is only the beginning.”

As I write this, I've learned that five prisons are locked down. They are Ware, Hancock, Telfair, Valdosta and Smith state prisons. Mind you these were five of the major prisons that participated in last year's Dec. 9 protest.

Dec. 9 is just around the corner. It's been almost one full year – and no changes to date.

Tupac said it best in his song, “Changes.” He said, “They didn't listen until my niggas burned it down.”

If rioting gets the Georgia Department of Corrections, the Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles, the state of Georgia General Assembly and the racist, unjust judiciary to listen, then I say, as H. Rap Brown (now Imam Jamil Al-Amin) said back in the day, “Burn, baby, burn!”

Send our brother some love and light:

Eugene Thomas 671488

G-2-148

Autry State Prison

P.O. Box 648

Pelham GA 31779.

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THE ALMIGHTY PEN AND PAPER: GRIEVANCES AND LEGAL WORK

Community Update on the Black August Legal Settlement: Harrison V. I.G.I., Case No: C-07-3824-SI - November, 2011

On September 20, 2011 a legal status conference hearing was held which was attended by Magistrate Judge Nandor J. Vadas, Deputy Attorney General Michael J. Quinn, and myself. The basis for the hearing was to determine what prison rule changes had been made with regards to the settlement agreement that was reached in this case on January 13, 2011.

Magistrate Judge Nandor J. Vadas then gave Deputy Attorney General Michael J. Quinn (e.g. “I.G.I.- C.D.C.R.”) until November 8, 2011 to show/demonstrate that actual prison rule changes were being made, as it pertains to the issues that were raised in this lawsuit.

On November 8, 2011 during the follow-up legal status conference, Magistrate Judge Nandor J. Vadas asked Deputy Attorney General Michael J. Quinn the following questions:

- 1.What do you have for us?
- 2.What is the latest with the new prison rule changes regarding Harrison's mail issues? Quinn replied; “There has been little to no movement on any new prison rule changes.”
- 3.Would you guys have new prison rule changes in place by the end of the year? Quinn replied, “There are new prison regulations being worked on via the 2009 class action Prison Legal News settlement with C.D.C.R., but it is hard to say as to whether it would be done by the end of the year or not.”

Magistrate Judge Nandor J. Vadas then concluded by saying, “Mr. Harrison has been very patient in this matter, and this issue has been going on long enough, and you guys have not held up your end of the settlement agreement. So I'm going to schedule one last status conference hearing for January 3, 2012, and if the new prison regulations regarding Harrison's mail issues (e.g. Black August, George Jackson, New Afrikan Revolutionary Nationalism, The New Afrikan Collective Think Tank, and the New Afrikan Institute of Criminology 101) is not implemented by then, Harrison's contempt motion for sanctions/fines will be heard before Judge Susan Illston of the US Northern District Court.”

The struggle continues!!

Kijana Tashiri Askari

S/N Marcus Harrison #H54077

PO Box 7500

D3-122/SHU

Crescent City, CA 95531

www.myspace.com/dare2struggle

email: Tashiri@gmail.com

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Waynesburg, PA - December, 2011

Dear Mental Health Advocates,
I am seeking any form of support that can be offered to me. My case is very complex but one of thousands that are happening in America and its prison system. Specifically, I am an inmate housed in a state prison in Pennsylvania- currently I am being housed in a restrictive housing unit at SCI-Green, a "Supermax" prison, where I will stay until I am released in 2018. I have already been in solitary confinement for 5 years. I am a mental health inmate who suffers from Borderline Personality Disorder, Paranoid Schizophrenia, and depression. In conjunction with my borderline personality I have extensive issues with suicide attempts and self-mutilation. My last major suicide attempt was on July 3, 2011 that required emergency ambulance transport to Altoona Regional Hospital after attempting to hang myself and hurting my neck. This occurred at SCI-Cresson where I was being denied adequate mental health treatment despite the prison officials knowing of my issues and the substantial risk of self-mutilation and suicide attempts. These are all actions of life-threatening behaviors.

As we speak, I have a very concrete case of 8th Amendment cruel and unusual punishment deliberate indifference to serious medical need case pending in the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania civil case No. 3:11 CV 167 KAP-KRG against SCI Cresson prison officials for not providing me with adequate mental health treatment and being cruel and unusual by keeping me housed in solitary confinement longterm despite the substantial risk of serious harm imposed by this. This constitutes deliberate indifference to serious medical need, namely mental health illness.

I also have a writ of habeas corpus in state court filed in Cambria County, Pennsylvania, challenging the conditions of confinement. This habeas corpus governs the same as my section 1983 filed in federal courts. I am in need of some form of assistance because now I am going through the same issues at SCI-Green as I did at SCI-Cresson. This is a continued violation of my constitutional right to receive adequate mental health treatment. Being constantly housed behind bars in solitary confinement is not helpful to me being rehabilitated nor helping me to learn how to deal with the symptoms of my mental illness once I return to society. Locking me away does not help achieve the modern day goals of society to provide corrective and rehabilitative measures to prisoners confined in penal institutions.

I've been left to suffer because of the PA Dept. of Corrections and their negligence to provide adequate mental health treatment to me as I am entitled to. This is not an act of negligence but an act of blatant disregard for my health and safety. Solitary confinement causes me to harm myself and depresses me so much that I engage in attempting to end my life frequently because of the loss of hope this environment creates for me. I just want help for my mental health issues.

I am requesting that you please help me as much as possible with advocacy, providing materials to help me litigate the type of issues in my case explained in this letter, referrals to possible pro-bono attorneys wishing to take my case, referrals to other organizations willing to help me. I need every aspect of help there possibly is to offer.

Petersburg, VA - November 22, 2011

I'm a libertarian activist in prison for threatening the president. (It was a generic threat against "the president," but George W. Bush was the officeholder at the time). Pete Eyre, a voluntaryist activist has posted a video about my case to YouTube.

After serving my original 16-month sentence, I then openly violated my conditions of supervised release as a protest against both the onerousness of the restrictions and what I viewed as government infringement of my individual sovereignty. I was sentenced to 24 months for that violation.

Since my arrival at Petersburg, I have engaged in civil disobedience by refusing to lock down on two occasions, refusing to work in the kitchen (or to stop when I was ordered to quit walking away from the kitchen on the day that I quit), and going on food strike. Unfortunately, these efforts did not attract any followers that I know of. However, there is always a possibility that civil disobedience can inspire others even decades or centuries later, as Thoreau's essay did. So I feel that there is insufficient information to justify a conclusion that my sacrifices were pointless.

I also sought to engage in more subtle subversion by teaching an economics class. I was impressed by the students' willingness to deal with the many obstacles to learning, such as an inexperienced teacher, lack of internet access, minimal budget for textbooks and handouts, etc. Unfortunately the class had to end early when I got sent to the Special Housing Unit due to my failure to provide a urine sample for a drug test. (I have a moderately severe case of paruresis, or shy bladder syndrome, which makes it impossible for me to urinate under direct visual supervision- I am appealing my disciplinary case).

I have been disappointed to see that civil disobedience is now so rare that people often don't even recognize it when they see it. They don't understand why a person would openly break the rules and provoke punishment for the greater good rather than for personal gain. Such behavior is deemed irrational and the rule-breaker is viewed as a person with clouded judgment and/or poor impulse control. People focus on the short term lack of visible positive results rather than on long term benefits for society. But I am always thinking of how succeeding generations might judge my actions or the actions of someone I inspire. I do not view that as narcissistic or arrogant. The potential to effect change is always there, even if the chain of events by which it happens is hard to predict beforehand or trace afterwards.

Sincerely,

Nathan Larson 36054-013
FCC Petersburg Medium
PO Box 1000
Petersburg, VA 23804-1000

two Somali women recently convicted in Minneapolis, of 15 counts of “material support for terrorism” for sending blankets and food money to their homeland. (<http://www.startribune.com/local/minneapolis/132239033.html>)

During the demonstrations, we can often see the raised fists and waves from inside the jail and juvenile detention center. Our response is more resistance: Our passion for freedom is stronger than their prisons!

DIRECT ACTION/ NON-COMPLIANCE

December, 2011

This report is about inmates coming together regardless of race or affiliation. I was informed of the starting of a hunger strike on B-Side of this plantation with reasons including being held on lockdown and that, like trash being thrown out the window, this unit doesn't have screens on the windows. As a result of the planned participation of the strike, they let up the lockdown to avoid any red tape that it would have brought. Previous to that on A-side, several offenders who were a part of other groups tried to come together in the rec yard to discuss how they could tackle some of the problems in the kitchen. We are not getting their proper portions, getting dirty un-sanitized trays, and never any cups or spoons. I'm awaiting the day they tell us to bring our own bowls, since they already want us to bring our own cups or we don't drink, bring our own spoons or we don't eat, and one morning right in the line there was a dead rat everyone had to step over. I barely eat in the chowhalls and I shouldn't have to deal with this since I don't go to commissary. The newest thing I just heard is that general population and/or all offenders will no longer be fed biscuits and only officers in the officer dining rooms will get biscuits. Already we don't get sausages but the officers do, and they give the offenders pork patties. Don't get me wrong, pork should be eliminated all together, but facts are just facts. As for other things, it is time for inspections so no offenders are getting beaten up. It's more like a free pass from officers' assaults. They should have a pod for the officers that are gang members all the way up to the high administration. It would be ironic if the high hitters were the ones placing officers in the position to bring in phones and drugs, then turn around and bust them.

I stand for something righteous. I've cleaned my side of the street up to see where I was going wrong in my part of oppression. I hope others can see things through my eyes- a Socialist Party perspective. I hope this sheds some light. I didn't use anyone's names to protect those at the hands of the oppressor. I leave you all with a revolutionary salute and this goes for all. We are one group called inmates/offenders, we need to stop allowing the system to dictate hatred for each other and not toward them. In my hard times I still try to find peace to make it through faith in god.

Akhenaten X

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Please let me know through contacting me at the address below of what you can and can't do for me. My situation is like hundreds of others- and we need help. I want to go home healthy, not out of my mind and insane.

Christopher Balmer
GX-5754
175 Progress Drive
Waynesburg, PA 15370

Tennessee Colony, TX - December 2011

I am asking that you publish my complaint about Coffield and their Lt. Hardin 07 (DIG) punishing me and retaliating against me for not being a jailhouse snitch. On 11/9/11 I was called into the office of Lt. Hardin about another inmate possessing a cellphone, which I told her I knew nothing about. I am now in Seg with G45-45 365 days of lost good time dropped. Two line class possible charges could be filed. This is solely out of retaliation, mistreatment, intimidation, and discrimination due to me not being a snitch and refusing to do this. Lt. Hardin is and was trying to force me to snitch on this inmate. He got caught with the cell phone over a year ago in a whole different wing. I was never caught or served with any case or anything. Lt. Hardin became irate and accused me of having my voice on the phone. As I said, I would still not snitch. I was moved from my housing in bootcamp to Uwing then, and now I have a major case and I'm locked up in Seg for a phone I never possessed. I need help from some outside government. Something needs to be done (such as Ruiz v. Estelle 503 Fsupp 1265). The court has long held that it is against TDCJ written policy to punish a prisoner for failure to give out information on his/her fellow prisoner.

C. Benjamin #1372371
Coffield
2661 FM 2054
Tenn. Colony, TX 75884

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Why we do it - November, 2011

Writer, inmate litigator, grievance writer, even snitch, problem maker is what we are called sometimes. We, the inmates who put up with the retaliation, harassment, back-stabbing, hate, prejudice, constitutional rights violations and denial of privileges all in an effort to make it right for others. We who give our time, education, money, effort, and energy to fight for those who are unwilling to fight for themselves. Why do we do it? To make sure that the right that was denied to me is not denied to you or to anyone who might come behind me, into the gang-mire of the justice system. We are the ones who are prosecuted, sentenced, and then don't watch TV or play cards or dominoes. We are the ones who open the law books and hold those who violated our rights accountable. This way we set our standards and precedent for all those who come behind us.

Of course we are not the only ones, there are many attorneys who see that the system cannot run unchecked. There has to be checks and balances. Just as the government has its own checks and balances, so too should the criminal justice system and the prison systems. Those in charge were sure not in any rush to protect us from violence, rape, even torture until we brought it out, sued, and won. Why we do it, simply, because it is the right thing to do.

All respect and apologies to our victims and those to whom we have done wrong. I know that some victims groups think it is ok for us to be beat and raped in prison just as we were doing wrong to those out there, we too deserve to have wrong done to us. This reciprocal thinking does not help when your son or daughter is distracted by their cell phone and they unintentionally run over a kid or an old man crossing the street, and is now sentenced to 30 years for negligent homicide. Does that person now, because he or she was sent to prison, deserve to be beaten, raped, not fed for days on end, have all their property taken because the officer on duty does not like them? Of course not. So, not to belittle the victims' way of thinking, but I would point out that it is not always right either.

There are those who deserve to be here, there are those who should never get out. There are those, I as an inmate litigator, will not assist. Not because they don't deserve the same rights as everyone else, but sometimes, the case or issue simply has no merit or is brought for their own selfish reasons.

There are limits, but we do it for those who have been done wrong. For example, one of my guys I assist has a long history of mental illness. His trial attorney sought and received permission from the court to seek an insanity defense, then the trial court denied his only expert witness. Was that fair? I don't believe it was right, however, the appeals court did find there was NO harm in it. This is an issue that should be brought to the courts. How about this one- a young man was charged with capital murder, no one eyed him, no one witnessed, the gun the state says he used does not match the bullets pulled from the deceased. Ballistics experts testify that they don't match the gun, but it is the only gun the cops find that has his fingerprints on it. He's found guilty and the upper courts both state and federal procedurally bar any attempt to prove innocence. There are so many issues and reasons for taking on a fight. My estimate is 70-80 percent of the people in prison are guilty of the crime

SOLIDARITY: WORKING ACROSS THE BARS

From Minneapolis: Solidarity with CA Hunger Strike - November 1, 2011

From <http://prisonerhungerstrikesolidarity.wordpress.com/2011/11/01/from-minneapolis-solidarity-with-ca-hunger-strike/#more-1513>

On October 9th, 11th, 20th, and 22nd, 2011, noise demonstrations emerged from the Occupy Minnesota encampment to march on the Hennepin County prison in solidarity with the California Hunger Strike. The march was organized by local anarchists and carried a message of attack against all prisons and systems of social control.

The U.S. uses prisons and policing as a "solution" to social problems. As a result, our communities are being destroyed. In the past two decades, the number of people in prison in the U.S. increased 400%. Prisons are filled with 68% people of color. These statistics can't even begin to convey the misery that a prison society entails.

In neighborhoods where people are most affected by mass imprisonment and policing, we see the direct impact of our annual \$50 billion investment in prisons and policing: closed schools, homelessness, basic health care is out of reach, and poverty remains a reality in the richest country on earth. Supporting prisoner-led resistance throughout the state of CA or in any prison across the country is about supporting those who are living and fighting through the most expansive and sophisticated prison system in world history. The fact that people can resist at all from inside US prisons is a testament to the struggle of life against the forces of death and disappearance. This deserves our solidarity, dedication and support.

As George Jackson said: "The point is...in the face of what we confront, to fight and win. That's the real objective: not just to make statements, no matter how noble but to destroy the system that oppresses us. By any means available to us. And to do this, we must be connected, in contact and communication with those in struggle on the outside. We must be mutually supporting because we're all in this together. It's all one struggle at base."

Although the Hunger Strike is paused while the participants evaluate a new offer from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in regards to their demands, it is clear that this strike is only one of many ongoing acts of resistance against the Prison Industrial Complex. From Georgia to Pelican Bay, the struggle continues.

Here in the Twin Cities, we march in support of:

- Prison rebels in California (currently on a hiatus from their hunger strike)
- Local friends and comrades arrested at an anti-foreclosure demonstration on October 20th. (<http://www.occupymn.org>)
- All targets of state repression and the prison-industrial complex, including

Soledad, CA - December 16, 2011

I am an inmate at Salinas Valley State Prison in Soledad, CA. I have been here seven years and have been allowed in the law library less than 25 times, although I apply every week. The officials at SVSP are extremely anti-litigation and engage in actions that suppress inmate access to the courts. At best, the average inmate will get two hours in the law library every three weeks to one month. The law library also doesn't always have the necessary forms to satisfy court requirements, such as grievance forms and writing material. Inmates here have complained various times with no success about the severe lack of access to legal research and material. Inmates are planning a group appeal to address this problem. However, that may be futile as the appeals process is regularly obstructed because officials at SVSP want to keep inmates from filing suits and making significant changes to their behavior and egregious unwritten policies through the courts. Thank you for hearing this letter and bringing attention to this issue.

Sincerely,
Nathaniel Watkins Jr.

Nashville, TN - November 2, 2011

I am a 57-year-old male prisoner housed at R.M.S.I. (Riverbend Maximum Security Institution) in the Maximum Security Area. On July 13, 2011, I was assaulted because of gross misconduct of duty by correctional officers Ulmer and Gaton. The assault was because the officers are afraid of the gang members. So the officers looked the other way and deliberately set me up to be assaulted at the shower while being escorted in full restraints. Then the officers held my arm so I could not protect myself.

I filed an inmate grievance the same day of the assault. Unit Manager Sandra Hall alleged on August 11, 2011 that the gang members received discipline and prison officials have issued a directive. No such thing took place. I submitted another grievance on October 12, 2011 to the Prison Internal Affairs Department, but still nothing was done.

So on October 23, 2011, I filed a petition for Declaratory Order. RMSI prison officials conspired with gang members against non gang member inmates in order to try and extort them. When that prisoner doesn't submit, they get assaulted on a cowardice roll by gang members. Warden Roland Colson agrees with the prison officials, but fails to conduct investigations. The petition is asking TDOC Commissioner to adopt a policy to separate gang members from non gang members.

Eddie Williams Jr. #121015
RSMI Unit-1 D-111
7475 Cockrill Bend Boulevard
Nashville, TN 37209-1048

of which they were convicted, but the one question that underlies the whole reason for the writ writing is were they treated fairly by the courts and were they properly convicted? These are the things that motivate me.

One guy I am assisting speaks no English, was arrested and illegally interrogated TWICE, and as a result he was told to sign a statement "or he would be instantly deported." The police statement is in English, he does not read English, and the statement he signed, he was told, was so he could stay in the US to take care of these charges. His attorney did a half-hearted attempt to challenge the statements, but as soon as the state complained, he backed off. This is why we do it. Not because the person is innocent, but because if this is called to the table, then who's next- your mom? My mom? Your son or daughter? Your grandfather? When the laws, rules, and statutes are not abided by, the justice system becomes a joke. We are doing a great service to not only each other, but the general public as well. Do you think that Miranda should have just forgotten about how he was dealt with by the law? I don't think so either. We are all grateful for the right he not only fought for, but the right that still protects us all. There are many more like Miranda.

I do this and try my best to embody the spirit of those who came before me. I do not do this work for any personal kudos or regards, I do it in the hopes that whatever right or protection that I make sure the courts enforce will be there should my family or children need to rely on it.

Being altruistic can be a downer at times. This unsung work takes a toll on those of us who do it. I applaud all those who risk retaliation, harassment, bogus cases for imaginary disciplinary violations, the loss of privileges, and the over-all hard time we receive from prison staff and inmates alike. Keep up the good fight, do this work honorably, do not abuse it or use it for selfish reasons. This is not about "us" it's about "them."

Sometimes doing the right thing is the hardest thing to do. But, in an effort to give back what I have taken from society, I make this effort not for me but for those who need the effort. It is easy to be motivated to do something for selfish reasons, it takes an even bigger person to simply do the right thing for someone else because it's the right thing to do.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Bracy 1484023
2661 FM 2054
Tennessee Colony, TX 75884

Building Collectives - December 2011

While trapped inside the bowels of this corrupt beast, one has to work twice as hard to get the oppressed to see that we are all sinking on the same boat! You are dealing with folks who have been damaged and discarded physically, mentally as well as emotionally. You have to have patience and be able to deal with each individual at his/her pace of learning. But you must push and pull to make sure that progress is being made. Knowledge is power! To find out who you truly are, what was the cause of your problems and how you can defeat the negative mind-set we have, you have to humble yourself, accept criticism, learn how to communicate, and be willing to be an example of transformation in your speech as well as your actions. Being in isolation (solitary confinement) you really have no distractions. The solitude can be used to better you or break you, point blank! All it takes is a letter to reach out and find help. It can be to family, friends, organizations, bookstores, colleges, etc. Your reaching out for books/literature on self-help, cultures, history, recovery from addictions, politics, struggles for liberation, etc. Don't get discouraged if you don't receive a reply. If anything, become more motivated. We are literally buried alive! The only way to get out of this grave is through knowledge. What laws were used to get you here? What rights did the state break to kidnap and convict you? You have to dig deep and find the answers. Find resource guides and write, write, write. Once you start finding help and studying, you can share the information with your neighbor or a person you know who was in your situation! Speak to other convicts, ask what books they are reading, see who's always in the law library, ask them for help on how to study and learn the law. Good books are like healthy food, so you got to make wise reaching choices. Ain't too much fiction gonna help you. That's for free time and entertainment purposes only. You have to be willing to want change in your life to find it. Keep lines of communication open amongst your fellow cons. Find common ground amongst the races. Stop thinking "hoodly" and look at shit globally. Even if it's just one step forward each day, it's progress. The main thing is to stay motivated, committed, and in search of truth. Knowledge is power and the only way to find true liberation. You have to first free your mind of the lies and misconceptions we've been taught to believe as truth.

Sincerely,

Mr. Daniels
Tehachapi, CA

For those I left at U.S.P.-Coleman I, and U.S.P.-Victorville, I'm a firm believer that what comes around goes around. I hope your karma is good?

Constantly, on-going Coffield Administration corruption, retaliation, harassment, conspiratorial planning, logging a false malicious "disciplinary infraction case" Officer Rhonda Smith. - December, 2011

On July 14, 2011, officer Rhonda Smith, Co.III here at the H.H. Coffield Unit did then and there knowingly intentionally act with intent by logging a false malicious disciplinary infraction case against me due to the fact that I exercised my rights of access to the courts by Dolley, and that I filed on the "Security Threat Group" ("STG"), and the "Mail Room Clerks."

Due to my on-going litigation challenging prison living conditions and filing on various prison officials throughout my 25 years of being unlawfully confined in the Texas Prison System, I have been singled out for retaliation by prison officials as well as the prison administration.

On the above-mentioned date, officer Smith filed disciplinary case #20110327080, charging me with "Establishing an Unauthorized Business," alleging that I produced goods or services, namely pictures and brochures for my own financial gain. At my disciplinary hearing before the Hearing Disciplinary Officer, Francisco Facio, there was no evidence presented of me being in possession of any items. When I had the counsel to present her with my questions, the charging officer couldn't recall when she shook down my cell. The date written on the case was when the entire unit was on lockdown. When I asked her when she searched the cell she couldn't recall. Disciplinary Captain Facio interrupted all of the questions that I presented, preventing her from answering them, and answering the questions for her, knowing that she falsified government documents. She left the hearing and came back, stating that she never shook down my cell, but stated that she received a letter from the mail room. When I asked her who gave her the letter, she stated that she didn't know.

I was found guilty and my punishment was: reduced from S3-S4 45 days commissary restriction and 45 days cell restriction. I gave my timely Notice of Appeal and the case was overturned at the step 2 level. Since the case has been overturned, I have requested from the prison officials the reason the case was overturned, and they refused to reveal this information so that I can provide for my lawsuit challenging the matter. I am requesting help from the public by contacting the following prison officials and asking them why the case was overturned and making a complaint against Smith and Facio for violating my Constitutional Rights. Brandi Allums, Ombudsman, PO Box 99, Huntsville, TX 77342 Ph. 936-437-6791, Fax 936-437-6668; Ivory Ratiff, Office for Disciplinary Coordination- Same Address, Ph. 936-437-6536, Fax 936-347-6199.

Endless Struggle 4-Life!!!

Kaazim Abul 'Umar #428622
(f/k/a "Wesley L. Pittman")

When you file a complaint against a physician with the medical board, he/she must defend against review by an administrative law judge or other physicians who can suspend their license to practice medicine if misconduct on ethical violations are determined.

Note that the Colorado Medical Board is in cahoots with the Feds, who exempt them from Colorado law under the erroneous view that all medical staff here are US Public Health Service officers. NOT!!

Here are useful addresses.

Ohio State Medical Review Board-
77 South High St., 17th Fl.
Columbus, OH 43226-0315

Office of Occupational Safety & Health Agency (OSHA),
1047 US Hwy 127 S. Suite 4,
Frankfurt, KY, 40601

Surgeon General,
3423 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., PO Box 30199,
Lansing, IL 48909

US Inspector General,
950 Pennsylvania Ave., Suite 4726,
Washington, DC 20530

Office of Indiana Atty General, Consumer Protection Division,
302 W. Washington St. 5th Flr,
Indianapolis, IN, 46204-2700;
ph (317) 232-6330; Fax (317) 233-4393

Colorado Dept of Regulatory Agency Medical Board,
1560 Broadway, Suite 1350,
Denver, CO, 80202

Indiana State Board of Nursing, Indiana Professional Licensing Agency,
402 W Washington St. Room W066,
Indianapolis, IN 40204;
ph (317) 234-2043

Remember there's a war going on against the people, and we are the casualties.
Resist!

Solidarity, Big John

Ione, CA - December 2011

Thanks to PAN for printing my cartoon, "Due Process," in the last issue. Maybe some comrades who liked it will be interested in my personal resistance updates. This is Squirrel, a.k.a. Linus, a.k.a. Dymitri, sitting in the hole at Mule Creek prison over some B.S. Remember, folks, even though the badges are our main enemies in the prison machine bizarro universe, always keep an eye on spineless fellow prisoners too. It's that kind of two-faced coward who put me in Ad-Seg. Short story, someone wanted me gone so he sent a bogus threat in my name to a courthouse. Real dirtbag move. Know your enemy, people! Sadly, sometimes he's sitting next to you. Above all, don't be that guy yourself. Fight the structure that oppresses us all, not your fellow victims. If you must fight a comrade, don't smile to his face and stab him in the back.

As for my resistance, my lawsuit has been cut from 3 counts against 5 named defendants and 4 "Jon Doinks" to just one count and 3 defendants. It's ok though, the one dismissed count of unlawful search and seizure of a pretrial detainee will come back on appeal, and I predict success. For now, the unlawful punishment complaint for pre-trial segregation with no due process or exigencies will likely go to trial, and of course Satan Diego County has demanded a jury trial. They're just trying to complicate it for me, plus they expect a jury to side with Johnny Law over the convicted felon. I'll let you know how it plays out.

We have to remember that it is important to hold cops accountable when they violate our rights. They assume we're all illiterate and only interested in Top Ramen and TV shows, so they'll never have to answer to a judge for their cruelties. Prove them wrong! Demand basic human decency. Maybe you can't always "get paid" if you sue, but it's not about money, it's about doing our part to put the brakes on police harassment, injustice, and brutality. If we all stand and fight, progress will be made. Maybe you can't undo the wrongs done to you by bullies with badges, but you can help prevent the next man from the same suffering, and that's something. That's a lot.

Finally, my multi-ground appeal plods on. I hope for a new trial to get a real defense. If it fails and I have to go onto habeas corpus, I'll have no lawyer, so any suggestions for legal research resources and computer support are very welcome. Please contact me with all ideas and encouraging words. I can't receive any mail sent directly from prison addresses though.

Stay strong, never submit, and always be better than what you hate in others.

Dymitri Harszewski
CDCR #AC2622
Mule Creek State Prison-industrial
PO Box 409020
Ione, CA 95640

Imperial, CA - November 30, 2011

On August 11, 2011, I had 5 “credits” submitted for restoration of “prison time” taken, given to CDCR Counsel (I.C. Seanez); but were not acted on as of this date. Later, I filed a CDCR Form 602 (Grievance Form) November 6, 2011, only to have it rejected because of a technicality for not first filing a CDCR Form 22 with Appeal Coordinator J. Jimenez and M. Garcia; I then DID file with “Appeals” November 10th and again on 11/27 - Warden Domingo Uribe, Jr., has not responded to these appeals.

Now, in combination with the resubmission of this grievance, I seek the filing of complaints against the said individuals with Matthew L. Cate, Secretary of CDCR, 1515 S. Street, Suite 502, Sacramento CA, 95814, Email: Secretary@cdcr.ca.gov; Sean Hannigan, President, California State Personnel Board, 801 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, CA 95814, Fax: 916-653-4256, and with Ken Hurdle, Chief Ombudsman of CDCR, 1515 S Street, Sacramento, CA 94283, using my name, these dates, etc.

Peace,

Brian Hill
H67149 C3-126
PO Box 921
Imperial, CA 92251

Missouri Misery at Potosi Correctional Center - December, 2011

There is a flagrant and ever-active code of silence that is an adopted practice of violating policy and procedure and the constitutional rights of prisoners that falls in line with Skinner V. Uphoff, 234 F. Supp. 2D1208 (D.Wyo. 2002), traversing with a heavy nepotism chain here at Potosi Correctional Center. It is bound and working in unison amongst all stages of staff, and is denying us due process of law by subjecting us to gravely disproportionate sanctions in line with Bell v. Wolfish, 441 U.S. 520, 535 60L. Ed. 2D447, 995 ct. 1861 (1979). This is in the form of referring and assigning us to administrative segregation to serve administrative segregation time that greatly exceeds the sanctions for minor rule violations set forth in departmental and institutional policies, which in turn violates procedural due process in line with Soto v. Lord, 693 F. Supp. 8 (S.D.N.Y. 1988) (violation of adequate procedures) all afforded under the fourteenth amendment to the United States Constitution. In turn this violates our eighth amendment right by subjecting us to the cruel and unusual punishment of unnecessary administrative segregation confinement in line with Charron v. Medium Security Institute, 730 F. Supp. 987 (E.D. MO. 1989) (awarding \$100.00 per day for unconstitutional punitive segregation confine

sent me to lock-up for assault in 2009, having me escorted to a secluded area, and ordering them to jump me. After kicking, and trying to defend myself, I was denied a full body chart.

Since then I’ve been on hunger strike, filed a 1983 lawsuit for excessive force, contacted the DA to press charges, and still refuse to be humiliated.

Love yourself,
Korrin Osborne #229516 cell M-63
Holman 3700
Atmole, AL 26503

Colorado Madness - December, 2011

I’ve toured a lot of “bad” prisons during my travels across the US with “Club Fed,” but USP Florence is way up there on the scale with bad medical and overall conditions. Maybe because it holds what the feds say are “the worst of the worst,” the guards proudly wear shirts saying, “The Alcatraz of the Rockies” on them and refer to their various programs of repression as “Operation Lockdown,” and other cop/military operations.

I must also note that previously my only worries of transfers were due to vindictive US Marshals and Prisoncrats placing me on “Diesel Therapy” due to years of activism and writ writing. Cleveland Marshals sent me to 17 different jails/prisons in 2004-2006 alone! I’m not “sniveling.” I “volunteered” to “see the world” when I joined “Club Fed.” Lately I must worry more about the “yard police” than prisoncrats. Seems the feds breed a mentality of cons who want to work together as yard police, rather than to join together to fight the daily injustices and human rights violations performed on us on a daily basis. What’s this about?

Prison health services usually don’t attract the “rising stars” of the industry. Quite the opposite, though there are exceptions to the rule. Most physicians who have been sued or disciplined by their prospective State Medical Boards for malpractice, overprescribing, addictions or other issues resulting in raising/canceling their insurance, work in corrections. One can usually determine a health care worker’s education, licensing/disciplinary charges by writing that state’s medical licensing board and making a public record request. Every state has one, few prisoners are aware of this fact. One can file a medical complaint against staff with that medical board. This goes a lot farther than filing a BP 9. required by the PLRA before filing a Bivens/Civil Rights Action.

Continued from page 19

them a sample complaint or inquiry, and they submit it as their own, after making any changes they choose, to the suggested official. I have not received any help, or offers of help yet.

Since my last update, I have not mailed out any Law Library Policy Project (LLPP) survey forms, which ask one question regarding TDCJ-CID's response to an inquiry from an outside PRM activist. I have been too strained up doing legal work, researching information for and producing my Kwazulu newsletter, and copying political education material for my peers, and working my prison job assignments. The help I thought I was going to get from the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement's Texas branch, after one of its members contacted me to give accolades, has not materialized, nor even a response to my later mailings. Anyway, of the 42 LLPP forms I have emailed out since June 2008, I have received 11 responses and only 5 of them answered the yes or no question. No PAN readers have requested the survey form from me.

Since my last update, I have submitted 10 formal prisoner grievances (called I-127s). Two concerned meat-free meals, three concerned actions by law library staff, one concerned actions by medical staff, one concerned actions by mail-room staff, two concerned security staff's failure to let us out of our cells in time for appointments, and one concerned the processing of grievances.

I am in a Texas court of appeals in Fort Worth, with my lawsuit about colored paper and publication denials.

Umoya Kwazulu
aka Richard T. Ayers #468361
1391 FM 3328, Beto Unit
Tennessee Colony, TX 75880

Atmole, AL - November 8, 2011

On January 15, 2011 I was attacked by a white officer while in handcuffs and placed in Administration Segregation for assault. While in Admin Seg., five officers came to my cell, four of whom were friends of the Sgt. who attacked me in January. During a routine cell search they said, "turn around and spread them or strip." Now this is very illogical because I am in a one man cell 24 hours a day with no human contact. After I asked why, the officer replied, "So you ain't gonna strip?" and then said, "Sarge, just let him out and I'll snatch them down, fuck it." My response was "Well you need to have a good reason to violate me..." To be brief, I let them in my cell, stripped to my boxers, and asked the sarge to just pat me down, saying "I have nothing in my anus or groin-area." He replied, "We're gonna make you strip." I asked for the lieutenant, not knowing it was the lieutenant who

ment). Racial profiling and discrimination are flagrant in here in line with *Powells v. Minnehaha County Sheriff Department*, 198 F.3d 711 (8th Cir. 1999). Beatings on prisoners are being carried out and covered up in line with *U.S. v. Miller*, 477 F.3d 644 (8th Cir. 2007). The librarian is intentionally hampering and hindering our adequate access to courts by deliberately disaffording unobstructed and full access to the law library and its materials. They have most of the prisoners housed here afraid to speak against them or stand up for their rights because there have been a long string of mysterious prisoner deaths. The cameras are old and strategically manipulated to cover up what's occurring.

Myself and a few other like-minded prisoners are undeterred and unafraid to fight for the rights we still retain as prisoners and are filing I.R.R.'s/grievances and petitions to: 1. Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon, Missouri Governor, PO Box 720, Jefferson City, MO 65102. 573-751-3222; 2. Phyllis Lively, ACLU of Eastern Missouri, 454 Whittier St., St. Louis, MO 63108. 314-652-3111; 3. Linda Black, State Representative, State Capitol Building, 201 West Capitol Ave. Room #107D, Jefferson City, MO, 65101. 573-751-2317; and 4. Cyndi Prudden, Division Director, Missouri Department of Corrections, 2729 Plaza Dr. PO Box 23, Jefferson City, MO 65102. 573-751-2389. Outside support is needed to be most effective to implement an adequate and binding remedy. Please make calls to the four aforementioned agencies to log verbal complaints in support, and/or write a written complaint on our behalf to them, requesting actions of restaffings, extensive outside-the-institution investigation and monitoring, and severe disciplinary sanctions upon violative staff. I am open to correspondence and can be written or blogged at:

William Irving #182906
PCC
11593 State Hwy. O.
Mineral Point, MO 63660
<http://betweenthebars.org/blogs/315>

Tennessee Colony, TX - November 23, 2011

I am an indigent Texas state prisoner. I have been a prison reform movement (PRM) activist for over 20 years, and New Afrikan Independence Movement (NAIM) activist for over 15 years. My first PAN report was in Vol 3 #1, and my updates have been in each subsequent issue. At the end of each update, I request help in typing of copying documents and articles that I have to copy by hand in order to share them with my peers and/or people on the outside, and I request outside help in the form of citizens adopting complaints of inquiries to Texas prison system (TDCJ-CID) administrators. Some outside PRM activists have indicated they did not comprehend the concept. Adopt means "to take or use as one's own." I send

